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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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25X1 _	Copy No.	3 of 5 25X1
·	12 July 1971	
I	MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSA OFFICE	NCE
:	SUBJECT : Requirements for Overhead Reconnaissance Photography of North Korea	3
	REFERENCE: USIB-D-46.4/47 (COMIREX-D-25.10/1, 21 June 1971, and Memorandum for Holder thereto, 9 July 1971, Limited Distribution	S
•		
	1. The United States Intelligence Board on 9 July 1971 approved the recommendations by the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation in the reference (copy attached) as standing guidance on Requirements for Overhead Reconnaissance Photography of North Korea.	
	Accordingly, the enclosed report is referred herewith for information and guidance.	
	Signed	
	Executive Secretary	25X1A
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NRO review(s) completed.	#3 COMIREX #4 USIB/S #5 Approved For Release 2003/05/28 • GIA-RDP79B01709A903400070009-0	r

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SUBJECT	:	-	ements for C graphy of Nor		Reconnai	ssance	
REFERENCE	:		D-46.4/47 (C e 1971, Lîmi			/1),	
1. On 9 Jurecommendation document.			es Intelligenc ragraph 23 of				
2. Please revised page 10 General Bennet consistent with paragraph 18. sideration by the	which ad t. The Cl views exp These cha	ds two s nairman oressed e	of COMIREX elsewhere in	aragraph advises the refer	16 as pr that these ence, pa	oposed by e sentences rticularly i	s are in
3. Accord Director, Nation with the Board	nal Recon	naissand					ince

Attachment

GROUP 1
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declassification

Executive Secretary

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STATES UNITED

INTELLIGENCE

BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT

Requirements for Overhead Reconnaissance

Photography of North Korea

REFERENCES

- USIB-D-41, 14/276 (COMOR-D-25/201) 19 January 1966, Limited Distribution
- b. USIB-D-46.4/13 (COMIREX-D-14.4/1) 27 March 1968, Limited Distribution
- c. USIB-D-46.4/37 (COMIREX-D-13.3/2) 27 May 1970, Limited Distribution
- d. USIB-D-46.4/32 (COMIREX-D-15.2/14) 10 November 1969, Limited Distribution
- 1. The enclosed memorandum and its attachments on this subject from the Chairman of the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) are circulated for Board consideration of the COMIREX recommendations in paragraph 23 that the USIB approve and forward to the NRO as standing guidance:
- The consolidated statement of basic national intelligence requirements for overhead photographic reconnaissance of North Korea as set forth in paragraph 10 of the enclosure;
- The supplementary guidelines for continuing implementation as contained in paragraphs 11 through 21;

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c. The rescission, in accordance with paragraph 21 of the enclosure,

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2. [memorandum	explains in	some detail	the need at this	ı
time for	a consolida	ted statement a	and amplific	ation of intel	lligence	
communi	ity requiren	ents on North	Korea in or	der to provid	le a common	
basis and authoritative reference for coordinated tasking and assessing						
accomplishment of the varied imagery collection assets available for						
employm	ient against	that country.	Paragraph	3 through 6 p	rovide a	

of those portions of reference a. applicable to North Korea.

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background statement outlining the current status of Board requirements regarding general area search and general surveillance. The status of tasking and achievement against existing requirements is outlined in paragraphs 7 and 8 while paragraph 9 summarizes the reasons for delineating North Korea into three basic areas of collection interest.

3. The supplementary guidelines (paragraphs 11-21) to the proposed consolidated statement of basic national intelligence requirements in paragraph 10 recognize the need for flexibility in considering the application of various reconnaissance assets against these requirements. Paragraph 20 specifically recommends that COMIREX be authorized to approve, without further reference to USIB, such routine revisions or adjustments in the delineation of search areas or surveillance targets as may be necessary to effectively meet the requirements objectives. Any proposed major modification or augmentation of these standing requirements would be referred to the Board for approval.

4. If approved the requirements and supplementing guidance in memorandum will supersede all applicable portions of reference a. relating to North Korea and augment the continuing valid guidance on North Korea provided in references b. c. and d. The memorandum also points out that while these requirements express the needs of the national intelligence community, they have been developed in consonance with the special DoD and Theater Command requirements stemming from tactical and combat responsibilities in this area. Thus, usable coverage achieved by theater assets against the USIB requirements will be reported to COMIREX and accounted toward satisfaction of these requirements.

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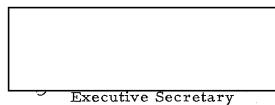
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5. The map at Tab A of the attachments delineates the priority areas of North Korea for photographic coverage including the array of priority targets which are listed at Tab B. Tab C summarizes the general record of accomplishment against USIB's standing requirements on North Korea over the past two years.

USIB ACTION REQUESTED

6. Board members are requested to advise the Secretariat by close of business 2 July 1971 of their concurrence or other views on the COMIREX recommendations contained in paragraph 23 of the enclosure by completing and returning the attached vote sheet.



Enclosure

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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT

: Requirements for Overhead Reconnaissance

Photography of North Korea

REFERENCES

: a. USIB-D-41.14/276 (COMOR-D-25/201) 19 January 1966, Limited Distribution

b. USIB-D-46.4/13 (COMIREX-D-14.4/1) 27 March 1968, Limited Distribution

c. USIB-D-46.4/37 (COMIREX-D-13.3/2) 27 May 1970, Limited Distribution

d. USIB-D-46.4/32 (COMIREX-D-15.2/14) 10 November 1969, Limited Distribution

- 1. This memorandum reviews the existing USIB requirements of record for overhead reconnaissance photography as they pertain to North Korea and the status of collection against these requirements. Forwarded in paragraph 23 are COMIREX recommendations that the Board approve the consolidated statement of intelligence requirements and supplementary guidance for photographic coverage of North Korea outlined in the body of this memorandum and authorize that they be forwarded to the NRO as standing guidance on national intelligence requirements in this area for the information of all concerned.
- 2. Imagery information on North Korea continues to be of priority intelligence concern at both the national and theater levels, particularly on targets and areas related to the order of battle and military posture of North Korean forces, the possible introduction of

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advanced or new weapons systems, and with respect to targets of potential indications and warning intelligence significance. Because of the dual national and theater interests, the variety of collection systems presently employed

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together with appropriate amplification of the substantive guidance factors applicable in programming collection against them. Virtually all of the presently active USIB requirements of record (references b-d) deal with North Korea as only one of several geographic components in broad standing requirements expressed for coverage of Communist Eurasia by specific imagery satellite systems. A consolidated statement and amplification of community needs at this time would provide a common basis and authoritative reference for coordinated tasking and assessing accomplishment of the varied imagery collection assets available for employment against North Korea.

Background

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3. The main objectives for overhead reconnaissance photography in North Korea, as in Indochina, are dictated primarily by the tactical character of the North Korean threat posed against U.S. and Allied forces in South Korea and the predominant role of ground forces therein.

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4. Existing USIB standing requirements on North Korea, cumulatively addressing a series of varied community needs for

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a Expressed in conventional terms of Ground Resolved Distance (GRD).

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overhead photography on that country, have been expressed generally in terms of the basic imagery collection functions of general area search^a and target installation surveillance^b.

5. General Area Search. USIB standing area search requirements for North Korea are included in the basic requirements specified for the remaining KH-4 missions (reference c) the need for maintaining an inventory of cloud-free coverage of approximately 80 percent of the total area of North Korea with photography no older than six months. KH-4 coverage has been highly valuable for detection of new military complexes, SAM defense sites and similar large-area installations. It has long been recognized^c, however, that the quality of KH-4 medium-resolution photography was less than needed for the major search objectives involving ground force order of battle and deployments such as found in North Korea.

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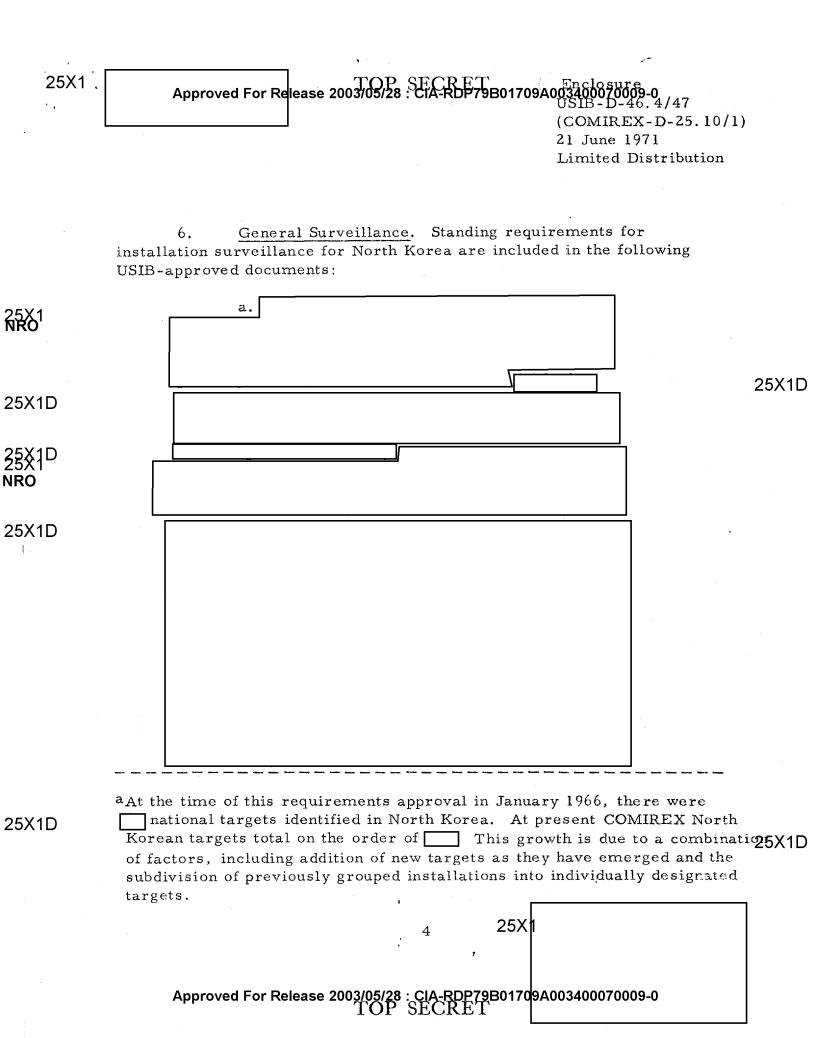
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aStanding area search requirements aim at acquiring photographic coverage of broad areas of the target country's territory at specified minimum frequencies to provide for the prompt detection or continuing negation of the existence of new activities or installations of intelligence significance. Since the aim of search is discovery, the collection objective is the designated territorial area itself.

bFor the surveillance function, which is related to installations or previously identified small areas known to be the location of significant activity, rather than broad areas, standing requirements attempt to provide for regular minimum periodic monitoring of the status and pace of developments at specific, known target installations of intelligence concern.

CUSIB-D-41.13/11 (COMOR-D-13/16) 27 June 1964, Limited Distribution



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Status of Tasking and Achievement Against Existing Requirements

- 7. Active imagery collection against the USIB requirements has been successfully implemented by a combination of airborne reconnaissance systems and satellite coverage. The basic directives have been amplified and supplemented as necessary by COMIREX interim guidance in accordance with current needs and problems. Both current collection targeting and accounting of coverage acquired against the national requirements are carried out on a coordinated community basis by the Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee of COMIREX for all contributing systems—airborne and satellite. Illustrative data on achievement against the major standing requirements are given in Tab C.
- 8. As reflected in Tab C, high-resolution search and surveillance coverage of North Korea has been more extensive than that on any Communist country with the exception of Cuba and some portions of Indochina. Both the SR-71 aircraft and KH-4 satellite systems have provided extensive area coverage in relation to standing requirements. With the SR-71 high-resolution materials, moreover, the area coverage data base on North Korea is considerably more advanced qualitatively than on other areas of the Communist world which have been covered for search purposes only by KH-4 medium-resolution imagery. With respect to target surveillance, again high-resolution coverage has been more frequent than for most other parts of the Communist world. For the purposes of strategic search and surveillance against national needs, therefore, the past coverage of North Korea has been satisfactory. Deficiencies have existed primarily in relation to frequency and currency of coverage of some

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key targets and areas of importance in judging North Korea's short-term intentionsa.

Basic Requirements

9. To enable succinct general expression and facilitate effective implementation of consolidated community guidance on its standing needs for routine, regular coverage of the area, North Korea is delineated into three basic areas of collection interest, with differing order of priority and coverage periodicity assigned to each. This division serves two major purposes:

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a. It reflects substantively the immediacy of threat to U.S. forces deployed in the area. Specifically, the area in North Korea adjacent to the DMZ encompasses those installations and forces which pose the most imminent danger to COMUSKOREA. The next most immediate threat is related to the major lines of communication and urban-industrial centers further north in the country, while the least likely area for detecting increased preparations for hostilities or development of a strategic threat includes the remaining portions of the country.

The need for daily coverage of key targets for indications/warning purposes, world-wide, is recognized in the Board's requirements for near-real-time imagery [USIB-D-46.4/30 (COMIREX-D-13.7/6) 16 July 1969; USIB-D-46.4/42 (COMIREX-D-13.7/10) 24 February 1971]. It is not practical to consider present satellite or airborne platforms in the context of daily or near-daily coverage over extended periods. The requirements specified in the present memorandum therefore do not delineate indication and warning needs as such.

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10. Employing these delineations, as shown on the map at Tab A, the requirement calls for cloud-free, interpretable quality photography of a resolution better than five feet (GRD) to be acquired as follows:

Area Search

- a. Approximately 80 percent of Area I, 32 nm north of the DMZ^a near-monthly;
- b. Approximately 80 percent of Area II each quarter; and
- c. Approximately 80 percent of Area III semiannually.

Target Surveillance

d. Approximately 80 percent of the priority indications targets^a, as listed in Tab B, near-monthly and the remainder of surveillance

targets

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Supplementing Guidance for Collection

The objective of the present consolidated statement of requirements is to define the needs of the national intelligence community for continuity of coverage of North Korean areas and installations, in recognition of the capabilities and characteristics of the collection systems which are available now or during the next several years, the SR-71 airborne system. It is recognized that as increments of photography are obtained, whether from aircraft or satellite platforms, there will be a continuing need to review the film immediately to obtain warning on any developments inimical to U.S. interests which might be reflected in such photography. As noted previously, however, it should be understood that this procedure with the present systems is not to be equated with acquisition of indications/warning photography as generally defined in other USIB requirements. In some instances, there will be value to obtaining, with present systems, repeated closely spaced coverage of some North Korean targets or areas whenever the opportunity is afforded.

12. In general it appears desirable to be able to obtain some high-resolution photography of North Korea about every month. While the requirement stated in paragraph 10, above, stipulates "near-monthly" periodicity of coverage, it should be understood explicitly that this requirement is not intended, in the context of substantive intelligence needs on North Korea, to dictate coverage each month. Rather, it is specified for planning purposes as the periodicity which it is judged would consistently meet national needs for North Korea photography. The varying degrees of North Korean covert and overt hostile actions and threats against South Korea require a flexible statement of requirements that can be monitored closely and applied or modified in the light of current circumstances.

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^aTo be forwarded for the Board's review and approval in the near future.

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17. For any given period, it would then rest with airborne assets to make up the shortfall in satellite coverage against basic or special needs as warranted. When considering the use of airborne assets on penetration missions, regardless of depth, a determination should be made, as in the past, on the specific needs and coverage deficiencies which at the time are sufficiently serious to warrant supplementary collection. This determination should be made by COMIREX on a specific case-by-case basis and not be based solely or arbitrarily on the broad statement of standing requirements expressed above.

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19. In view of the particular sensitivity and hostile environment of the North Korean area, COMIREX deems it essential that the respective provisions in paragraphs 17 and 18, above, for formal case-by-case assessment and validation within the USIB mechanism of national intelligence needs for either supplemental or special collection efforts, other than satellite, be carefully implemented.

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- 20. Since North Korea represents an active theater for potential enemy aggressive military action, it is recognized that the delineation of areas or targets in any basic standing requirements must be regularly amplified and refined by specific mission guidance responsive to current needs and emerging situations. It is recommended that COMIREX be authorized to approve, without further reference to USIB, such routine revisions or adjustments in the delineation of search areas or surveillance targets as may be necessary to effectively meet the requirements objectives. Any proposed major modification or augmentation of these standing requirements would be referred to the Board for approval.
- 21. The requirements and supplementing guidance outlined in this memorandum for photo reconnaissance of North Korea supersede all applicable portions of reference a. relating to North Korea and augment the continuing valid guidance on North Korea provided in references b-d.
- 22. These consolidated requirements addressed specifically to North Korea reflect the national intelligence community needs. They have been developed in consonance with the special Department of Defense and Theater Command requirements stemming from tactical and combat responsibilities in this area. Usable coverage achieved by theater assets against the USIB requirements will be reported to COMIREX and accounted toward satisfaction of these requirements. Accounting will be maintained by the COMIREX Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee (ICRS) staff on the level of accomplishment for each of the specified periods. The "sliding scale" method of accounting will be employed for reporting the status of coverage achieved on the target and area objectives specified in this requirement.

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Recommendations

- 23. It is recommended that the USIB approve and forward to the NRO as standing guidance:
 - The consolidated statement of basic national intelligence requirements for overhead photographic reconnaissance of North Korea as set forth in paragraph 10 above;
 - The supplementary guidelines for continuing implementation as contained in paragraphs 11 through 21 above; and
 - The rescission, in accordance with paragraph 21 above, of those portions of reference a. applicable to North Korea.

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Chairman	

Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

Attachments Tabs A, B, and C

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Tab A

NORTH KOREA

Standing Priority Targets and Area Delineations for Photographic Coverage

1. The attached map delineates, in terms of 3 \times 3 nautical mile cells, the priority areas of North Korea for photographic coverage in accordance with the basic requirements stated in paragraph 10 of this memorandum and includes the array of priority targets listed in Tab B.	25X 1	ID

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Tab C

NORTH KOREA

Collection and Achievement Against USIB Requirements

 At present, high-altitude overflight by manned aircraft 	
of the GIANT SCALE (SR-71) program	
are the main means for imagery collection against the national	
community needs for target surveillance in North Korea. GIANT	
SCALE peripheral missions primarily aimed at ELINT collection also	
contribute to target surveillance coverage, particularly in the zone	
32 nm north of the Demarcation line. Additionally, some surveillance	
coverage of COMIREX targets is accomplished by the	
theater program utilizing T-29 aircraft flying south of the DMZ.	

- 2. Over the past two years, GIANT SCALE overflight missions have been the major contributor to area search coverage of North Korea in terms of high-resolution photography on ground force activity. The KH-4 medium-resolution satellite system has regularly provided supplementary coverage against the area search requirement, but its resolution has been a limiting factor in meeting the particular needs of the North Korean problem.
- 3. The general record of accomplishment against the various USIB standing requirements is as follows:
 - a. Target Surveillance. The target surveillance requirements originally were developed to maintain a current data base of information on the military and economic capabilities of North Korea. The level of satisfaction over the past two years for the requirement of 100 percent coverage every six months is as follows:

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Tab C

Period

Level of Accomplishment

1	January		30	June 1969		.:	30	percent
1	July	_	31	December	1969		62	percent
1	January	_	30	June 1970			75	percent
1	July	-	31	${\tt December}$	1970		70	percent

The average level of accomplishment against the quarterly requirement in the above time period has been 44 percent. Thirteen (13) GIANT SCALE missions were flown in this two-year time frame.

Area Coverage. The following tables show separately the level of satisfaction of the USIB search requirement, by: (1) the KH-4 system for coverage of 80 percent of the total area of North Korea (39,000 square nautical miles) semiannually, and (2) GIANT SCALE missions for the comparative periods.

(1)KH-4

Period	Level of Accomplishment
	(as of end of period)
1 January - 30 June 1969	65 percent
1 July - 31 December 1969	78 percent
1 January - 31 June 1970	92 percent
1 July - 31 December 1970	79 percent

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Tab C

(2) GIANT SCALE

Period	Missions	Level of Accomplishment
		(as of end of period)
e e Sa		
1 January - 30 June: 1969	(1)	6 percent
1 July - 31 December 1969	(4)	59 percent
1 January - 30 June 1970	(6)	26 percent
1 July - 31 December 1970*	(2)*	53 percent*

^{*}Includes "bonus" photo coverage in DMZ area provided by 12 GIANT SCALE peripheral ELINT missions during period.